

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 13316 01 OF 02 151814Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----042048 151817Z /44

O R 151803Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0668
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 13316

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV RH UK US GW SF
SUBJECT: GENSCHER-BOTHA TALKS: RHODESIA

REFS: (A) BONN 13169 (NOTAL); (B) BONN 13152 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: FRG FONMIN GENSCHER AND SOUTH AFRICAN FONMIN
BOTHA MET SATURDAY IN FRANKFURT AND DISCUSSED PEACE
EFFORTS IN RHODESIA, NPT (SEPTTEL) AND NAMIBIA (SEPTTEL).
BOTHA RULED OUT SOUTH AFRICAN PARTICIPATION IN FURTHER
SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA. THE ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT
FUND WAS NOT DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY

1. EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER AND POLITICAL OFFICER
FROM UK EMBASSY (YOUNG) WERE INVITED TO FOREIGN
MINISTRY FOR A SUMMARY OF THE TALKS BETWEEN FRG
FONMIN GENSCHER AND SOUTH AFRICAN FONMIN BOTHA HELD
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PAGE 02 BONN 13316 01 OF 02 151814Z

IN FRANKFURT, SATURDAY, AUGUST 13. MUELLER, CHIEF
SOUTHERN AFRICAN AFFAIRS OFFICE OUTLINED VIEWS MADE
BY GENSCHER AND BOTHA ON NPT AND SOUTH AFRICAN INTERNAL
AFFAIRS (SEPTTEL), NAMIBIA (SEPTTEL) AND RHODESIA.
MUELLER CHARACTERIZED THE TALKS AS "TOUGH BUT NOT
UNFRIENDLY."

2. GENSCHER OPENED BY STATING THE FRG SUPPORTED THE US/UK PLAN FOR A SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA AND HOPED SOUTH AFRICA WOULD USE ITS INFLUENCE TO PERSUADE THE SMITH GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT IT. BOTHA REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOT STUDIED THE PLAN THOROUGHLY. GENSCHER RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA AND NOTED HOW CRUCIAL THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONNECTION WAS FOR SMITH'S SURVIVAL. BOTHA HEATEDLY REPLIED THAT FURTHER SOUTH AFRICAN MEASURES SUCH AS CLOSING THE BORDER WERE IMPOSSIBLE SINCE THIS WOULD REQUIRE NEW LEGISLATION AND THE TURMOIL SURROUNDING SUCH A PROPOSAL WOULD BRING DOWN THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. BOTHA WENT ON TO ASK WHETHER THE WEST WANTED SOUTH AFRICA TO CREATE STARVATION AND SUFFERING FOR MILLIONS IN RHODESIA WHILE AT THE SAME TIME SOUTH AFRICA IS ASSISTING OTHER NEIGHBORS INCLUDING MOZAMBIQUE. IF SOUTH AFRICA CLOSED ITS BORDER WITH RHODESIA IT WOULD ALSO HAVE TO CLOSE ITS BORDERS WITH BOTSWANA, SWAZILAND, LESOTHO AND MOZAMBIQUE. GENSCHER REPLIED THAT STARVATION MEASURES WERE NOT CONTEMPLATED, BUT OTHER INTERIM MEASURES THAT WOULD ASSIST A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA WOULD BE IN SOUTH AFRICA'S INTEREST. BOTHA EMPHATICALLY REPLIED THAT ONLY THE UNITED KINGDOM, NOT SOUTH AFRICA COULD FORCE THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT TO ACT. BOTHA REITERATED STRONGLY THAT CONTINUED US
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PAGE 03 BONN 13316 01 OF 02 151814Z

AND UK ATTACKS ON SOUTH AFRICA MUST CEASE SINCE
"WE HAVE ALMOST REACHED THE POINT OF SAYING WE

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PAGE 01 BONN 13316 02 OF 02 151813Z
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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 13316

EXDIS

CANNOT HELP WITH RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA."

3. BOTHA STATED THAT SMITH HAD SAID EVERYTHING
KISSINGER ASKED FOR IN SEPTEMBER OF 1976, BUT THAT THE
FRONT-LINE STATES HAD IMMEDIATELY STARTED SHOOTING
DOWN THE PLAN. HE (BOTHA) HAD WARNED OF THE NEED FOR
RAPID ACTION IN THE MONTHS BEFORE THIS MEETING WITH
GENSCHER. IT IS HARD FOR OUTSIDERS TO APPRECIATE THE
GRASS ROOTS POLITICAL PROBLEMS THAT SMITH NOW HAS
BEFORE THE ELECTION. GENSCHER REPEATED THAT IT WOULD
BE TO SOUTH AFRICA'S ADVANTAGE TO COOPERATE WITH THE
WEST ON RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA. TALKS AT THIS POINT
TURNED TO NPT AND NAMIBIA (SEPTELS).

4. THE ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND WAS NOT DISCUSSED.
MUELLER STATED THAT HE WAS CALLING IN POLITICAL
OFFICERS FROM THE OTHER EIGHT EC EMBASSIES FOR A
GENERAL BRIEFING ON THE GENSCHER-BOTHA TALKS. THE
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PAGE 02 BONN 13316 02 OF 02 151813Z

FRG WOULD ASK FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE OTHER EC NATIONS
FOR THE US/UK PEACE PLAN WITHOUT RPT WITHOUT REVEALING
DETAILS OF THE PLAN. MS. YOUNG (UK) NOTED THAT THE
NETHERLANDS AND IRAN WERE FULLY AWARE OF THE DETAILS
SINCE BOTH COULD BE INVOLVED IN POSSIBLE OIL SANCTIONS
AGAINST RHODESIA.
STOESSEL

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